

# Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## Introduction

### Important Notes

This Annual Performance Report is for the reporting period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, with “future activities” beginning with 2003-04. Several observations need to be pointed out:

- The “Future Activities” section of this Annual Performance Report (APR) covers the same time period as the previously submitted Improvement Plan, beginning with 2003-04 which is nearing completion. This section is largely a repeat of the Missouri’s Improvement Plan which was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in July 2003. To date, DESE is awaiting a letter of response on the Improvement Plan from OSEP.
- This APR makes very few adjustments to the Improvement Plan. Analysis is based on data prior to the implementation of the Improvement Plan. Time is needed for the Improvement Plan to be implemented before analyzing for the impact of the plan and looking for additional adjustments.
- Probes GS.V and BF.VI are new for this report. Historical data for these probes, particularly BF.VI dealing with the improvement of skills in preschool children, are limited.

### Background

Missouri began working on the Self-Assessment component of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP) in July 2000, and the Self-Assessment was submitted to OSEP in October 2002. The Self-Assessment process involved an analysis of existing data, and resulted in improved data collection methodologies, establishment of baselines, and most importantly, an increased focus on performance and outcomes of students with disabilities. Subsequent to the completion of the Self-Assessment, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAP) worked through a process which identified two priority areas. These areas were Elementary Achievement and Post-Secondary Outcomes. A third priority, monitoring of city/county jails, was added as a result of a finding of noncompliance in OSEP’s response to the Self-Assessment.

The Division worked with Great Lakes Area Regional Resource Center (GLARRC) to design a process to arrive at strategies to address the priority areas. GLARRC facilitated two 2-day meetings with two groups of stakeholders during April 2003. One group dealt with elementary achievement and the second group dealt with post-secondary outcomes. The objectives for the initial meetings were

- To generate, clarify, classify and prioritize causal factors that inhibit a coordinated system and
- To analyze the root causes that inhibit a coordinated system.

The objectives for the second set of meetings were

- To review the system of root causes/barriers and improve outcomes
- To generate clarify, classify and prioritize strategies
- To construct alternative profiles of recommended strategies
- To build consensus on the profile of strategies and
- To map the influence relationship of the consensus profile.

The Improvement Plan, submitted to OSEP in July 2003, is a result of the work of these stakeholders. To date, DESE has not received a letter of response on the Improvement Plan from OSEP. The “Future Activities” section of this APR is largely a repeat of the Improvement Plan since both were to begin with the 2003-04 year. Not enough time has passed since the completion of the Improvement Plan to both implement the plan and assess the impact of the plan.

## **Recent Developments**

The Division is very committed to the priority areas identified by the Special Education Advisory Committee, and in addition to strategies outlined in the Improvement Plan and this Annual Performance Report, the Division has submitted a State Improvement Grant (SIG) application that focuses on improving elementary achievement and post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities.

A recent addition to Special Education resources available to school districts is Special Education Consultants located in Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs). These consultants will play a major role in the implementation of the SIG work scope, but will provide assistance to districts whether or not the SIG is awarded. Special education RPDC consultants work with school districts, RPDC staff and other state consultants and supervisors to improve student academic performance in districts and/or schools as identified through data analysis and the priority school process. Special education RPDC consultants deliver and support Division of Special Education professional development initiatives including those relative to meeting performance goals and indicators.

Special education RPDC consultants expand the capacity of the Division of Special Education to provide regional services throughout the state. Regional team members provide support and service to priority schools and their responsibilities may include:

- Serving on Success Teams or Management Teams
- Service to unaccredited and provisionally accredited districts or Academically Deficient School
- Teaming with Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Regional Facilitators to analyze disaggregated special education student performance on the MAP
- Teaming with the MAP Regional Facilitators to support districts in planning and sustaining professional development to improve student performance
- Working with districts that have been identified as low performers in elementary achievement or secondary transition to perform a root-cause analysis and to develop professional development plans that will address the unique needs of each district.

## **Explanation of “Future Activities” sections**

- IP Key – After submitting the Part B Improvement Plan in July 2003, the Division developed a work scope. The IP Key is primarily for internal tracking of progress.
- Improvement Strategies – General description of the activity
- Future Activities to Achieve Projected Targets – More detailed activities which will lead towards attainment of targets
- Evidence of Change – The measurement of progress for the activities
- Projected Timelines and Resources – Anticipated completion date for the activities and section responsibilities and funding type